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PROGRAM	CBS Evening News	STATION	WUSA TV CBS Network
DATE	October 27, 1986 7:00 PM	CITY	Washington, DC
SUBJECT	Contra Training		

DAN RATHER: With U. S. military aid now once again flowing openly to the Nicaraguan contras, the Reagan administration is setting up a military training program for the guerrilla fighters in this country.

David Martin has been told the details.

DAVID MARTIN: Informed sources tell CBS News the Pentagon has developed a plan to secretly train contra rebels at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. Eglin is currently used to train U. S. Army Rangers in jungle warfare. It is also home base for the Air Force's Special Operations Wing, which could train the contras in aerial re-supply, a crucial part of any effort to send guerrillas deep inside Nicaraguan territory.

Most of the estimated 20,000 contra soldiers would still be trained at their own camps inside Honduras, but they would be trained by soldiers who had been through the Eglin course. The training is part of the \$100 million in aid Congress approved for the contras after a two year cutoff in all but humanitarian items, such as medicine and clothing. The 100 million will also buy new weapons, including heat-seeking anti-aircraft missiles, to be used against the Sandinistas' growing helicopter force. U. S. intelligence sources say that earlier this month Soviet freighters unloaded six crates believed to contain Hind helicopter gunships, which would double the number in the Sandinista arsenal.

The plan to train at Eglin has not yet been formally approved. But administration officials say it has to be in the U. S. because no Central American country will allow the training to take place on their territory.

David Martin, CBS News, the Pentagon.

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RADIO — TV DEFENSE DIALOG



WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
7:00 p.m.

ABC-TV
October 27

Contra Leaders Being Trained

JARRIEL: Although Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger today denied any knowledge of any such plans, other Pentagon officials privately insist the Administration has decided to train Contra leaders in this country.

The officials said it would be better to train the Contras in Central America, but Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras have all refused permission.

Helicopters Delivered to Sandinistas

JARRIEL: While the United States prepares to funnel new aid to the Contras, ABC's Bob Zeldink (?) reports from the Pentagon that six Soviet built Hind helicopters have been delivered to the Sandinistas within the past month.

Those are the weapons described as flying tanks by President Reagan and it doubles the number of Hind helicopters available for use against the Contras.

October 28, 1986

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